

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-03 DPW-01 DHA-02 ORM-01

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D/PW - MR. SIEVERTS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

S E C R E T STATE 300208

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ID PT US

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE PRISONERS

REF: A) LISBON 7448 B) USUN 6863 C) JAKARTA 15438

D) LISBON 7526 E) LISBON 7492 F) JAKARTA 15452

1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN
THIS ISSUE TO THE POINT OF APPROACHING GOI FORMALLY
REGARDING THOSE PORTUGUESE MILITARY DETAINEES CURRENTLY
HELD IN TIMOR. GOI, IN ANY CASE, IS AWARE (AS REFTEL (C)

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NOTES) OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE PRISONERS. HOWEVER, LISBON

HAS INFORMED DEPT BY TELEPHONE THAT PRISONERS HAVE APPARENTLY NOT BEEN RELEASED (AS REPORTED REFTEL (D)). EMBASSY JAKARTA IN ITS NORMAL DAILY CONTACT WITH GOI OFFICIALS, IS AUTHORIZED TO INQUIRE REGARDING INDONESIAN INTENTIONS TOWARD THE PRISONERS, THEIR CURRENT WELL-BEING, ETC., NOTING THAT THIS KIND OF ISSUE HELPS TO INFLUENCE INTERNATIONAL ATTITUDES. YOU SHOULD MAKE A SIMILAR INQUIRY REGARDING THE ICRC. (ICRC HAS AGAIN APPEALED TO US HERE THRU REP IN N.Y. TO INTERCEDE WITH GOI ON THEIR BEHALF.)

2. FOR LISBON AND USUN. IF PORTUGUESE SHOULD AGAIN RAISE THE QUESTION OF DETAINEES, YOU MAY STATE THAT WE HAVE BEEN

ABLE TO GET LITTLE INFORMATION ON THE PRISONERS, BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT THEY ARE BEING WELL CARED FOR. YOU SHOULD ALSO INDICATE THAT WE WILL MAKE FURTHER INQUIRIES ON BEHALF OF THE PRISONERS, BUT THAT WE SUGGEST THAT GOP MIGHT ALSO APPROACH OTHERS -- POSSIBLY JAPAN, BRAZIL OR NEW ZEALAND -- TO INTERCEDE ON BEHALF OF THE DETAINED SOLDIERS. KISSINGER

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